"These two legislative bodies have been designed to carry forward the policy initiated by my illustrious predecessors of enabling the people of the State to take part in the legislative, financial, and other measures concerning Travancore and to bring to the notice of my Government the needs and aspirations of the people. Very large powers of legislation, financial scrutiny and interpellation have been vested in them and I hope and trust that, in a spirit of mutual co-operation and good feeling, these powers will be exercised for the good of Travancore and in such manner as to help Travancore to take an adequate and honourable part in achieving the destiny of India I feel sure that the various communities and interests represented by election and nomination will realise that the world is passing through a critical period and that in Travancore, as elsewhere, politics are but a means to an end and there is need for a wide outlook and a patriotism that transcends temporary and accidental barriers of birth and creed to bring about the rehabilitation of our agriculture and the development of our industries and the general levelling up of our standards with a view to secure for our people the peace and prosperity that are the aim as well as the justification of all Governments.

"I am glad to inform you that the constitutional experiment that has been started in Travancore is being watched with sympathy and interest by many outside the State as is evident from the speech recently made by The Rt. Hon'ble

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the Secretary of State for India and I am confident that with the co-operation of all the members and the valued friendship of the Paramount Power and of His Majesty's representative in India the State will play its appropriate role in the India of the future."

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Sri Chitra State Council*) : Sir, with your kind permission, I venture to take the liberty of requesting you, on behalf of the members of the Sri Chitra State Council, to convey to our gracious Sovereign, our humble and respectful tribute of loyalty and devotion to his throne and person, and also to convey our feelings of profound gratitude and thankfulness for the gracious and inspiring message which it has pleased His Highness to send to us across the seas on this auspicious occasion, and which you, Sir, as the head of the two Legislative Chambers, had the privilege of reading to us just now.

This message has conveyed to us His Highness the Maha Raja's congratulations and good wishes and has placed before us high and noble ideals for us to strive after and achieve. Sir, this day makes a new history for Travancore. The event that has just taken place, under your distinguished presidency, is an epoch-making one. It registers a definite move forward in the political evolution of the country. The two chambers of the legislature that have come into existence to-day are, from the Sovereign to his people, need I say, priceless gifts. These institutions have brought the people into closer association with the administration of the State and have also, at the same time, transmitted to the representatives of the people the responsibilities of a weightier kind in the solution of that vast multitude of problems which confronts Government from all directions. Besides, these institutions have also brought the people nearer to the throne than ever before. They have, I make bold to say, gone a long way in satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the people. These reforms have given the Travancore citizens a new status and new importance in the eyes of the subjects of other Indian States. These reforms are envied by the whole of Indian India. They have, as was alluded to by His Highness the Maha Raja in his gracious message, elicited high encomiums from the Rt. Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India. They have also,—I should be pardoned for saying so—added to the political pride of the country; and have also added to the renown of His Highness the Maha Raja for his progressive administration and solicitude for the welfare of the people.

Sir, we are prepared to work the reforms to the fullest satisfaction of our gracious Sovereign. We are prepared to so work them as to transcend all barriers of caste and creed, keeping before our eyes the

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country's good as our sole objective. We shall strive to show to the outside world that we are capable of taking our legitimate share in moulding the future destiny of India.

You, Sir, have had the privilege of being at the head of the administration during this critical period, and have taken the responsibility for devising this large and generous measure of reforms; and you are entitled to the gratitude of the country. I do hope that, in due course, the institution would be so worked as to enable you to report to His Highness the Maha Raja that the wishes, expressed in the royal message and implied in the constitutional reforms, have been more than fulfilled. The experience you have had of the working of the legislature in Travancore, need I say, will help you to realise that we are capable of shouldering greater responsibility.

Sir, we pray God to shower His choicest blessings on His Highness the Maha Raja, and wish him, in all humility, a safe and pleasant voyage back to his country. Once more, Sir, we request you to convey our gratitude to His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Sri Mulam Assembly*) : Sir, on behalf of the members of the Sri Mulam Assembly, I beg to associate myself with the sentiments which have now been expressed by my friend Dr. Madhavan Pillai on behalf of the members of the Sri Chitra State Council. I take this opportunity to express also our feelings of loyalty and devotion to the person and throne of His Highness our gracious Maha Raja ; and I request you, Sir, to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja our respectful thanks for the gracious, noble and inspiring message you have read out to us just now. His Highness' kind message will be a beacon light to us ever illuminating our difficult path and guiding us on proper lines in the discharge of our arduous duties. I can assure you, Sir, on behalf of my colleagues here, that it will be our earnest endeavour to approximate as much as possible to the high and noble ideals set before us by His Highness' gracious message. Permit me also to state, Sir, that we recognise that a great advance has been made in constitutional government by the legislative reforms inaugurated and promulgated in the very first year of His Highness' reign and commended so highly by no less a person than the Secretary of State for India himself, and we devoutly hope that in the fulness of time, when we have justified the great trust and confidence reposed in us by His Highness, larger and wider powers will be conferred upon these legislative bodies. We pray for His Highness' long life and prosperity.

PRESIDENT : Members of the Legislature, I shall be very glad indeed to convey to His Highness the sentiments that have just now been given expression to by two members representing the two Houses.

I call upon the Financial Secretary to present the Budget for 1109.

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MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to present the budget estimates for the year 1109. This is the first budget presented before both the Chambers of the Legislature constituted under Regulation II of 1108. With the passing of the new Regulation, the expenditure relating to Ports Currency and Mint, State Charities and Railways which was non-votable under the old Regulation has been made votable. Further, the expenditure relating to all appointments carrying a salary of less than Rs 500 per mensem is now brought within the purview of the Legislature, as against the limit of Rs 125 per mensem fixed under the oldRegulation.

The draft budget for the year 1109 has been prepared on the above basis and the revised estimate figures for 1108 have also been adjusted suitably, wherever possible.

Now I shall briefly touch upon the results of the last completed financial year before proceeding to explain the revised estimates for the current year and the budget estimates for the next year.

ACTUALS OF 1107.

2. The ordinary revenue and expenditure charged to revenue for 1107 were Rs 219·28 lakhs and Rs 218·90 lakhs respectively against the revised estimate of Rs 215·42 lakhs and Rs 221·42 lakhs. The year thus closed with a small surplus of Rs ·38 of a lakh as against the anticipated deficit of Rs 6·00 lakhs. This improvement was brought about by the increase in revenue realisations to the extent of Rs 3·86 lakhs and by savings in the anticipated expenditure which amounted to Rs 2·52 lakhs. The increase in revenue was mainly under Stamps (1·81), Salt (·85), Forest (·67), Customs (·39) and Registration (·48), due to better collections during the latter part of the year. The receipts under Taxes on Income and Excise, however, declined by Rs ·30 of a lakh and Rs ·48 of a lakh, respectively. On the expenditure side, the decrease was mostly under Education (1·10) and Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements and Protective Irrigation (1·23), due to the lapse of budget provision under the above heads. The receipts from the Sale of Government lands and the Capital Expenditure not charged to revenue amounted to Rs 1·30 lakhs and Rs 20·34 lakhs respectively as against the revised estimates of Rs 1·50 lakhs and Rs 19·02 lakhs. The Government Account balance which was expected to stand at Rs 117·97 lakhs thus rose to Rs 122·84 lakhs at the close of the year.

Before passing on to the revised estimates for the current year, I shall explain briefly the more important changes in classification adopted in the budget.

(1) The Kandukrishi lands of all kinds lying scattered throughout the State are the personal and private property of His Highness the Maha Raja and His Highness has full proprietory rights over these

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